NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
BACKGROUNDER NO. 1-0413 MARCH 22, 1976
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THE OTHER CHARGES AGAINST PATTY HEARST

ANNCR:

PATRICIA HEARST HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF BANK ROBBERY AND NOW FACES THE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER COURT TRIAL. CHRIS KERN REPORTS.

VOICE:

NOW THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS FINISHED ITS CASE AGAINST PATTY HEARST, THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IS PREPARING TO BRING HER TO TRIAL ON EVEN MORE SERIOUS CHARGES. MISS HEARST AND TWO COMPANIONS ARE ACCUSED OF KIDNAPPING, ROBBERY AND ASSAULT RESULTING FROM THEIR TWO-DAY ESCAPE IN MAY, 1974, FROM A TIGHTENING RING OF POLICE. SIX OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SO-CALLED SYMBIONESE LIBERATION ARMY WERE UNABLE TO ESCAPE AND THEY ALL DIED IN A LOS ANGELES GUN BATTLE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SIMPLER, OF COURSE, IF ALL THE CHARGES AGAINST MISS HEARST COULD HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF IN A SINGLE TRIAL. BUT THE CRIMES THAT SHE WAS ACCUSED OF COMMITTING FELL WITHIN BOTH THE FEDERAL AND STATE JURISDICTIONS AND THE TWO SYSTEMS HAVE SEPARATE COURTS AND JUDGES -- EVEN SEPARATE RULES WITHIN CERTAIN CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATIONS -- SO JOINT TRIALS ARE IMPOSSIBLE.

U.S. AND STATE PROSECUTORS DECIDED THE FEDERAL BANK ROBBERY TRIAL SHOULD COME FIRST, APPARENTLY BECAUSE THEY CONSIDERED IT THE STRONGER CASE. FEDERAL AUTHORITIES ARE NOW PREPARED TO LET CALIFORNIA TAKE CUSTODY OF MISS HEARST -- EVEN BEFORE SHE IS SENTENCED FOR HER BANK ROBBERY CONVICTION

-- SO THE STATE CAN PREPARE TO BRING HER TO TRIAL ON ITS OWN CHARGES.

BUT IT'S NOT CERTAIN THAT THE CALIFORNIA TRIAL WILL EVER TAKE PLACE. WHILE THE FEDERAL AND STATE PROSECUTIONS ARE ENTIRELY INDEPENDENT, THE CALIFORNIA AUTHORITIES COULD DECIDE THAT IT'S NO LONGER NECESSARY TO TRY MISS HEARST ON THE STATE CHARGES, ESPECIALLY IF SHE RECEIVES A STIFF SENTENCE FOR THE FEDERAL CRIME. IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE -- BASED ON PAST PRACTICE IN CASES OF THIS TYPE -- THAT HER LAWYER WILL BE ABLE TO GET THE STATE CHARGES DROPPED. THIS, IN RETURN FOR MISS HEARST'S TESTIMONY AGAINST THE TWO SLA COMPANIONS WHO ALLEGEDLY PARTICIPATED WITH HER IN THE CRIMES THAT CALIFORNIA SAYS THE THREE COMMITTED.

EC/PY